



Office of Childhood

Office of Special Education

March 2021

## **Annual Report on Children Referred to First Steps for the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA): Calendar Year 2020**

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## Purpose

Under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act or CAPTA (Public Law 111-320), a referral of a child under the age of three who is involved in a substantiated case of abuse or neglect must be made to the early intervention program funded by Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). In Missouri, the Part C of IDEA is known as First Steps.

The Missouri First Steps program contracts with a System Point of Entry (SPOE) in ten regions throughout the state. Each SPOE is responsible for the local administration of the program, including referral, intake, eligibility determination, and Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) development.

The Missouri Department of Social Services (DSS), Children's Division requires staff to refer any child under age three who meets the criteria of CAPTA to First Steps. This report provides information related to the children referred to First Steps with a referral source of CAPTA or DSS in calendar year 2020.

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## Children Referred to the First Steps Program

In calendar year 2020, 1,027 children were referred to the First Steps program by the Department of Social Services Children's Division. Of the 1,027 children, 519 children (50.5%) had a referral source of CAPTA, and 508 children had a referral source of Department of Social Services.

Of the 519 children referred with a referral source of CAPTA, 108 children\* (20.8%) were found eligible and reached the status of an IFSP. The remaining 411 children did not reach IFSP status due to the following reasons: 219 were withdrawn by a parent or guardian; 107 were Part C ineligible; 64 were unable to contact/locate; 18 were refused by SPOE; and three were inquiry only\*\*.

Of the 508 children referred with a referral source of DSS, 148 children\* (29.1%) were found eligible and reached the status of an IFSP. The remaining 360 children did not reach IFSP status due to the following reasons: 155 were withdrawn by a parent or guardian; 136 were Part C ineligible; 57 were unable to contact/locate; 10 were refused by SPOE; and two moved out of state.

\*Includes children who had an IFSP prior to referral from CAPTA or DSS

\*\*Referral records that were closed with the reason *inquiry only* were included in this report. Inquiry only refers to those who are only seeking more information about the child or program.

## Active Children by SPOE Region

Table 1 represents the 519 children referred to First Steps with a referral source of CAPTA and their eligibility percentages by SPOE region.

**Table 1. CAPTA Referrals and First Steps Status for Calendar Year 2020**

<b>SPOE Region</b>	<b>Referred to First Steps</b>	<b>Reached IFSP</b>	<b>% Served</b>
Region 1 - Greater St. Louis	25	11	44.0%
Region 2 - St. Louis County	29	10	34.5%
Region 3 - Northeast	40	12	30.0%
Region 4 - Northwest	16	0	0.0%
Region 5 - Greater Kansas City	29	5	17.2%
Region 6 - Central	77	6	7.8%
Region 7 - Southwest	43	13	30.2%
Region 8 - South Central	117	26	22.2%
Region 9 - East Central	42	7	16.7%
Region 10 - Southeast	101	18	17.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>108*</b>	<b>20.8%</b>

\*Four children had an IFSP prior to referral from CAPTA

Table 2 represents the 508 children referred to First Steps with a referral source of DSS and their eligibility percentages by SPOE region.

**Table 2. DSS Referrals and First Steps Status for Calendar Year 2020**

<b>SPOE Region</b>	<b>Referred to First Steps</b>	<b>Reached IFSP</b>	<b>% Served</b>
Region 1 - Greater St. Louis	48	19	39.6%
Region 2 - St. Louis County	70	30	42.9%
Region 3 - Northeast	19	6	31.6%
Region 4 - Northwest	24	9	37.5%
Region 5 - Greater Kansas City	37	4	10.8%
Region 6 - Central	45	10	22.2%
Region 7 - Southwest	50	16	32.0%
Region 8 - South Central	106	16	15.1%
Region 9 - East Central	52	18	34.6%
Region 10 - Southeast	57	20	35.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>148*</b>	<b>29.1%</b>

\*Three children had an IFSP prior to referral from DSS

For a map of the SPOE regions, visit the First Steps website at:

<https://dese.mo.gov/media/pdf/first-steps-spoec-contact-information-region>

## Authorizations

Table 3 represents the First Steps service authorizations for the 104 children\* referred to First Steps with a referral source of CAPTA who received First Steps services. At the end of calendar year 2020, there were a total of 384 active authorizations for the 104 children.

**Table 3. First Steps Authorizations Resulted from CAPTA Referrals**

<b>Service Type</b>	<b>Authorization Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
El Testing	93	24.2%
Special Instruction	84	21.9%
Occupational Therapy	61	15.9%
Physical Therapy	60	15.6%
Speech Language Pathology	53	13.8%
Assistive Technology	10	2.6%
Social Work	5	1.3%
Applied Behavior Analysis	4	1.0%
Counseling	3	0.8%
Vision Services	3	0.8%
Dietary/Nutrition Services	3	0.8%
Audiology	2	0.5%
Translation Services	2	0.5%
Team Meeting - Eligibility	1	0.3%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Table 4 represents the First Steps service authorizations for the 145 children\* referred to First Steps with a referral source of DSS who received First Steps services. At the end of calendar year 2020, there were a total of 538 active authorizations for the 145 children.

**Table 4. First Steps Authorizations Resulted from DSS Referrals**

<b>Service Type</b>	<b>Authorization Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
El Testing	129	23.98%
Special Instruction	112	20.82%
Speech Language Pathology	81	15.06%
Occupational Therapy	80	14.87%
Physical Therapy	61	11.34%
Applied Behavior Analysis	23	4.28%
Assistive Technology	21	3.90%
Dietary/Nutrition Services	15	2.79%
Social Work	7	1.30%
Counseling	4	0.74%
Audiology	2	0.37%
Translation Services	2	0.37%
Team Meeting - Eligibility	1	0.19%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

\*The authorization data does not include children whose IFSPs were in place prior to referral from CAPTA or DSS

## Average Age

Table 5 represents the average age, in months, of the 519 children referred to First Steps by CAPTA and the 508 children referred to First Steps by DSS. The average age of children referred to First Steps in 2020 was 12.2 months for CAPTA referrals and 13.7 months for DSS referrals.

**Table 5. Average Age of Infants Referred**

